

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02

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SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /083 W

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R 200630Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6791

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, MA

SUBJECT: MALAGASY GOVERNMENT CHARGES AGAINST OIL MARKETING  
COMPANIES

REF: TANANARIVE'S 1931, 1676, 1665

1. CALTEX MANAGER JULIAN DASHIELL INFORMED EMBASSY DECEMBER 18 THAT CALTEX FISCAL MANAGER, AN AMERICAN NATIONAL, HAS NOW BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING MADAGASCAR (IN ADDITION TO DASHIELL HIMSELF AND OTHER PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVES OF OIL MARKETING COMPANIES) IN CONNECTION WITH GOMR INVESTIGATION OF COMPANIES' PAST FOREIGN EXCHANGE REPATRIATION PRACTICES. ACCORDING TO DASHIELL, CALTEX FISCAL MANAGER WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO DEPART ALTHOUGH HIS REPLACEMENT HAS ARRIVED AND IS ALREADY IN COUNTRY; FISCAL MANAGER HAS ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT WAITING FOR HIM ELSEWHERE; AND CALTEX OFFERED TO POST BOND OR SECURITY TO PERMIT HIS DEPARTURE. SIMILARLY, FISCAL MANAGERS OF SHELL AND TOTAL RECENTLY HAVE ALSO BEEN RESTRICTED FROM LEAVING COUNTRY.

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2. ACCORDING TO DASHIELL, OIL COMPANIES HAVE SOUGHT

RELIEF OR EXPLANATION THROUGH SEVERAL AVENUES, BUT EVERYWHERE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ONLY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE RAMAROSON CAN DECIDE QUESTIONS. RAMAROSON HIMSELF CONTINUES COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE TO OIL COMPANIES. ACCORDINGLY, NO TALKS OR NEGOTIATIONS OF ANY SORT ARE UNDER WAY BETWEEN GOMR AND OIL MARKETING COMPANIES, AND COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED AND GLOOMY.

3. CHARGE RAISED SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH CLAUDE RATSIMANDRESY, DIR BILATERAL AFFAIRS, MOFA AT DINNER PARTY ON DECEMBER 18. CHARGE ASKED RATSIMANDRESY TO WHOM CALTEX MIGHT TURN IN ABSENCE OF RAMAROSON. HE SUGGESTED DASHIELL SPEAK TO ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO GENERAL RAMANANTSOA, RAYMOND RABENORO, OR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMY. (CALTEX HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO LATTER.) DASHIELL WAS INFORMED OF THIS CONVERSATION DECEMBER 19.

4. RATSIMANDRESY SUGGESTED THAT IF OTHER APPROACHES FAILED, CHARGE COULD RAISE PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WOULD NOT BE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH MINISTER RAMAROSON.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: IF CALTEX APPROACH TO RABENORO IS UNPRODUCTIVE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT TO FIRST DISCUSS TRAVEL BAN PROBLEM WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY. RATSIRAKA'S ALLEGED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE UP ISSUE WITH RAMAROSON (PRESUMABLY IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY CLOSETED IN ALL-DAY BUDGET SESSIONS) PROBABLY HAS POLITICAL ROOTS WHICH MAY LEAD TO RATSIRAKA'S EXPLOITING ISSUE TO EMBARRASS RAMAROSON AND OUR EARNING RAMAROSON'S ENMITY.  
ELFERS

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## Message Attributes

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